

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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HECB announces State Need Grant amounts

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) sent an email to State Need Grant (SNG) financial aid administrators yesterday, announcing grant amounts for the 2002-2003 academic year. The Board used information from the institutions' May interim reports of SNG recipients and eligible, but unserved, students to estimate the number and anticipated enrollment patterns of students expected to be eligible for grants next year.

Grant amounts for 2002-2003, shown in the following table, will cover about 70 percent of the tuition and fee increases for the State Need Grant eligible population.

Sector	Median Family Income	
	0% - 50%	51% - 55%
Research	\$3,798	\$2,849
Regional	\$3,026	\$2,270
Community and Technical Colleges	\$1,908	\$1,431
Private Four Year	\$4,032	\$3,024
Private Vocational	\$1,908	\$1,431
Dependent Care Allowance	\$643	\$482

Schools soon will receive an official letter with this grant amount information and the initial reserve of funds for each school. If you have questions about grant amounts or other SNG issues, contact John Klacik at johnk@hecb.wa.gov.



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Institutions well represented at state financial aid workshops

The Board extends its thanks to all who participated in the five state financial aid training workshops across Washington during the past two weeks. Most institutions that participate in state financial aid programs had at least one representative at a workshop. We know the commitment it takes to attend this training, and we hope that the information presented at the sessions was helpful.

If you signed up for additional program manuals, you should get them in the next few days. If you didn't request additional copies, but need them, please e-mail your request to Colleen Scovill at colleens@hecb.wa.gov. Please indicate the program for which you need manuals, and the number of copies you need. As always, we invite you to call us throughout the year if you have any questions about the state financial aid programs.

Washington State Achievers finish first year strong

480 low-income students benefit from Gates Foundation initiative

In its first year of operation, the Washington State Achievers program awarded 480 scholarships to students around the state. The program focuses on 16 high schools and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

According to a May 13 article in *The News Tribune* (Tacoma), "Opening doors to college Achievers," 96 percent of recipients — who started college this fall — remain enrolled. Awards average \$20,000 over four to five years and cover costs remaining after other financial aid packages. Students can receive up to \$6,000 annually.

The program targets two types of low-income students: the typical college-bound youth and the teen whose talent goes unnoticed by traditional measures.

"Our goal is to expand the pipeline of those who go to college, not to simply reward those who would get scholarships (from other sources) based on their academic record," said Steve Thorndill of the Washington Education Foundation, which administers the scholarship program.

The article is not available for redistribution, but you may be able to access it online by visiting <http://www.tribnet.com/> and looking up "Washington State Achievers" in *The News Tribune* archives.

ED official in charge of updating student aid programs to step down

Greg Woods, chief operating officer of the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office, has announced that he will leave his post at the end of September. Mr. Woods said he needed "to put [his] energy into" battling pancreatic cancer, a disease he was diagnosed with earlier this year.

Mr. Woods joined ED in 1998 to modernize the delivery of federal financial aid to colleges and students. His core mission was to revamp the 13 computer systems — controlled by different contractors — that served the student aid programs. At the time he was hired by then Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, Mr. Woods had been deputy director of Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that, while Mr. Woods' tenure has at times been controversial, college leaders are generally pleased with his accomplishments. The article is available online to *Chronicle* subscribers: [Education department official in charge of modernizing student-aid programs will step down.](#)

Coalition calls for repeal of financial aid ban for drug offenders

Lawmakers, education lobbyists, and other groups rallied on May 21 in Washington D.C. to call for the repeal of a law that denies federal financial aid to students convicted of drug offenses. The Coalition for Higher Education, which organized the rally, includes groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congressional Black Caucus, the United States Student Association, and the National Education Association.

The *Chronicle* reports that a number of Congressional speakers at the rally backed repeal of the law, contending that it has denied financial aid to 80,000 students since its enactment in 2000. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) has introduced legislation (HR 786) that would repeal the law. The article is available online to *Chronicle* subscribers: [Coalition calls for repeal of law that denies financial aid to drug offenders.](#)

States across the nation face huge budget gaps

Emergency cuts and tax increases are the rule, not the exception

Washington is hardly alone in its current state budget crisis. The National Conference of State Legislatures reported last month that at least 40 states and the District of Columbia are being forced to make emergency budget cuts — to the tune of \$27 billion nationwide.

According to a report in *The New York Times*, states are finding myriad ways to deal with the shortfalls:

- Missouri is so cash-strapped that it stopped sending out income tax refunds. More than 400,000 taxpayers are owed nearly \$170 million from their 2001 returns.
- Gov. Gray Davis of California proposes closing a gap totaling one-third of the entire state budget by raising vehicle license fees and cigarette taxes and making deep cuts in health programs and aid to local governments.

- Connecticut has controlled its deficit with a 61-cent-a-pack increase in cigarette taxes, from 50 cents to \$1.11.

Twenty-nine states are considering cuts in higher education, 25 in prisons and 22 in Medicaid. At least 10 may lay off employees. The article is available online: [States' vast budget gaps bring higher fees and emergency cuts.](#)

Where did you go, Don DeLillo?

Wonder where your heroes and heroines went to college?

The answer may surprise you

If you think the Ivy League has a lock on graduating artists, media elites, intellectuals, and political leaders, think again. An unscientific, though extensive, survey by *Washington Post* writer Jay Mathews shows that many of yesterday's and today's leaders went to public and lesser-known private institutions. For example:

- 16 of the first 25 current governors listed in the 2002 Almanac of American Politics went to public institutions. Another — Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner — earned only a GED.
- News anchors Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw went to Sam Houston State and the University of South Dakota, respectively. Their counterpart, Peter Jennings, is a high school dropout.
- Talk-show maven and self-made arbiter of culture Oprah Winfrey went to Tennessee State.
- Tycoon Warren Buffet attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Secretary of State Colin Powell the City University of New York.
- Among the artistic set, filmmaker Ken Burns went to Hampshire College, humorist Garrison Keillor attended the University of Minnesota, and novelist Don DeLillo, the author of *Underworld* and *White Noise*, went to Fordham.

The article is available online: [The path to success isn't strewn with ivy.](#)